



• INFO memo - March 19, 2004

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‘Tree City USA’ Celebrates Arbor Day March 25

After bringing home “Tree City USA” honors for the fourth year in a row, the City of Broken Arrow will hold its official Arbor Day celebration Thursday, March 25, at Jackson Park.

Starting with the year 2000, Broken Arrow has earned the distinction of being a "Tree City USA" in a program designed by The National Arbor Day Foundation to promote more awareness of trees in our lives.

To earn this honor, cities must meet certain requirements set by the Foundation. Tree City USA standards call for a Tree Board or Department; a Tree Care Ordinance; a Community Forestry Program; and an Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation. Broken Arrow is one of the few cities in Oklahoma which have met those standards each of the past four years.

The Arbor Day program will begin at 1 p.m., and will feature the planting of several trees in Jackson Park, which is located on the northeast corner of the Washington-Garnett intersection. Most of the trees will be planted near the picnic shelters.

Mayor Richard Carter will be on hand to talk about the importance of trees in the quality of life in Broken Arrow, and area students will be doing some of the planting.

BA Youth City Council Holds Festival, Battle of Bands

The first “Broken Arrow Youth Festival,” featuring a Battle of the Bands, will be held in Central Park Saturday, March 27, from 1 to 5 p.m.

In addition to the competition between some area bands made up of high school students, there will be a Classic Car Show, inflatable games and displays by the armed forces. Food vendors will be on hand.

This is a project which got its start with the Youth City Council of 2002-2003 and was carried over to this year by the current seniors in the group.

The YCC will hold its mock City Council meeting Monday, March 29, starting at 4 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall. They will then make a formal presentation to the City Council in April.

‘Slumber in the Slammer’ Set for March 26

Going to jail in Broken Arrow won’t be nearly as unpleasant in the future as it is now – not after the new Criminal Justice Center opens in a few weeks.

For a preview of that new facility – including a stay in one of the new jail cells – area citizens are invited to make reservations (at \$25 per person) for “Slumber in the Slammer” Friday, March 26.

There will be a public open house for the Justice Center the first week in April. The Slumber in the Slammer, however, will provide a few extra benefits.

The program will start at 8 p.m. and continue through 12:30, when the last jail cell will be emptied. There will be entertainment provided by the American Girlz, food from local restaurants, demonstrations by the Broken Arrow Police Department’s K-9 and FireArms Training Simulator (F.A.T.S.), and a tour of the municipal court, forensic lab, property room and jail cells.

Those attending will go through the entire “booking” process, including a free mug shot.

Tickets are available at the following sponsors: Arkansas Valley State Bank (all three locations), Tulsa Advance Alarms or through the BA Citizen’s Police Academy Alumni Association. The BACPAAA is sharing proceeds with the Special Olympics of Oklahoma. Tickets at the door will be \$35.

The Criminal Justice Center was constructed with funds from the 2000 bond issue, with ground broken just over a year ago.

Storm Readiness Information Available

Broken Arrow’s Department of Emergency Management officials will be working with those of other communities around Oklahoma during the month of April to bring more information to the public on being ready for severe weather.

April and May are traditionally two of the worst months for severe weather in Oklahoma. Local McDonald’s restaurants, including those in Broken Arrow, will be joining hands with emergency management officials to get information out to the public on how to prepare for that severe weather.

Branon Dodd, the City’s Employee Safety/Risk Manager, said Broken Arrow would be scheduling some displays for the McDonald’s in town, and putting more emphasis on information available through the City’s web site (www.brokenarrowok.gov). Included on the web site are sample sounds of the warning sirens for tornadoes, floods, and terrorist attack.

Broken Arrow is rated a “Storm Ready” community.

Last Week to Sign Up for Track Meet

The deadline for registration in the Hershey Track & Field Meet at South Intermediate High School is Friday, March 26.

After a very successful debut last year, the event will once again be sponsored by the Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Department on Saturday, April 3.

The competition, open to boys and girls ages 9 to 14, is one of several across the nation. Qualifiers here advance to the state meet. There is a regional level and then a national championship in August. All are part of the Hershey's Youth Program (Hershey chocolate in Pennsylvania).

Entries must be hand delivered to or filled out at the Broken Arrow Community Center no later than 6 p.m. Friday, March 26. A legal birth certificate must accompany each entry.

Ribbons will be awarded to the first six placers in each event. The first two placers in each event qualify for the June 26 State Meet in Norman.

Last year one relay team from Muskogee advanced to the Nationals. Several others made it to the regionals.

There are sprint races for individuals in each age group, as well as relays for the older competitors and field events. Age divisions are 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14 for both boys and girls.

For more information go to the Community Center at 1500 S. Main or call Melissa Parker at 259-8437.

Beginners Volleyball Program Available

Registration deadline is March 23 for a beginners volleyball class which will begin April 6 at the Broken Arrow Community Center, 1500 S. Main.

Melissa Parker, Director of the Recreation Programs for Parks & Recreation, stated the class would cost \$20 and would consist of Tuesday and Thursday sessions from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. over a period of six weeks. It's designed for players 10 years of age and up. For more information call Parker at 259-8438 or email her at mparker@brokenarrowok.gov.

City Has Pins, Patches, Post Cards, Etc.

With Broken Arrow in the news more than ever and getting recent nationwide publicity over the announcement of a Bass Pro Shop coming to town, it might be a good time to have some items to wear or give to friends letting folks know where you live.

The City's Water Department at the south end of City Hall (220 S. 1st) has an assortment of lapel pins, key rings, patches, auto license plates, bumper stickers, postcards, shirts, and hats available for very affordable prices.

Ask the cashier the next time you're in City Hall to see these items. Don't hesitate to brag about where you live!

River Development Meeting Coming to BA

One of the series of meetings being held by the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) and planners of development along the Arkansas River will be coming to Broken Arrow's Community Center in Central Park on Friday, March 26. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

INCOG and Carter-Burgess, organizations which have been given the challenge of developing a master plan for the 42-mile stretch of river running through Tulsa County, are holding these informal meetings to give area residents an opportunity to provide input and make comments about the plans for the Arkansas, running from the Keystone Dam to the Wagoner County Line.

The first "visioning" phase is expected to be finished in June. The Vision and Master Plan should be finished in early 2005.